

S-477

c. 1913

John H. Tull House  
Freemantown  
Private

Named for the earliest known owner of this two-story, side hall/parlor dwelling, the John H. Tull house stands in the center of the historic black community known as Freemantown. Located east of the City of Crisfield, the village evidently developed during the years preceding the Civil War. Although no extant structures are known to predate the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, there is a distinct grouping of houses built between 1880 and 1930, years that are coincidental with the height of the oyster industry in the region.

The John H. Tull house was apparently assembled around 1913 following the subdivision of a small plot of ground bordering what is now called "Freedomtown" Road. On July 28, 1913, Frederick E. Gardener and his wife, Phoebe, sold "Lot No. 4" to John H. Tull for \$200. The two-story, side hall/parlor frame house, with its two-over-two sash windows and corbelled cap brick stove chimney, is reasonably dated to the years following this transfer. John H. Tull retained ownership of the house and lot until June 1940 when he transferred the title to children. Elsie Tull Turner resided in the house until the early 1990s.

## HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: JOHN H. TULL HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: S-477

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):  
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE  
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. S-477

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic JOHN H. TULL HOUSE

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 3530 Freedomtown Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Crisfield ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Sohronia Collins, Iva Sterling, Jacob Tull, Gladys Tull

street & number 1532 Lester Court telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21205

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset County Clerk of Court liber 132

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio 513

city, town Princess Anne state MD 21853

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. S-477

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The John H. Tull house is located at 3530 Freedomtown Road in the historic black community of Freemantown, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story, two-bay frame house faces east with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date around 1913, the two-story, two-bay single-pile house is supported on a brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with a layer of asbestos shingles that cover plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a single-story service wing.

The east (main) facade is a two-bay elevation with a side entrance flanked by a two-over-two sash window. The second floor is lighted by a pair of two-over-two sash windows that are in alignment with the first floor openings. The base of the roof is finished with boxed cornice. Rising through the roof is an off-center single-flue brick stove chimney finished with a corbelled cap.

The south gable end is marked by a single two-over-two sash window on each floor and the eave of the roof is extended slightly beyond the plane of the wall.

The north gable end is similarly treated, although the first floor wall surface is uninterrupted since the stair is located against it. The second floor is marked by a single two-over-two sash window.

The west (rear) wall of the main block is partially covered by a single-story, two-room plan kitchen wing served by a central stuccoed brick chimney.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Named for the earliest known owner of this two-story, side hall/parlor dwelling, the John H. Tull house stands in the center of the historic black community known as Freemantown. Located east of the City of Crisfield, the village evidently developed during the years preceding the Civil War. Although no extant structures are known to predate the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, there is a distinct grouping of houses built between 1880 and 1930, years that are coincidental with the height of the oyster industry in the region.

The John H. Tull house was apparently assembled around 1913 following the subdivision of a small plot of ground bordering what is now called "Freedomtown" Road. On July 28, 1913, Frederick E. Gardener and his wife, Phoebe, sold "Lot No. 4" to John H. Tull for \$200. (Somerset County Land Record, SFD 63/345) The two-story, side hall/parlor frame house, with its two-over-two sash windows and corbelled cap brick stove chimney, is reasonably dated to the years following this transfer. John H. Tull retained ownership of the house and lot until June 1940 when he transferred the title to children. (Somerset County Land Record, 132/513) Elsie Tull Turner resided in the house until the early 1990s.

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**Acreage of nominated property** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle scale** \_\_\_\_\_

**Quadrangle name** \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

**A**

Zone Easting Northing

**B**

Zone Easting Northing

**c**

D

E | | | | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | | | | |

[illegible]

### Verbal boundary description and justification

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
AL	001	ALBANY	001
AL	003	ALBUQUERQUE	003
AL	005	ALBUQUERQUE	005
AL	007	ALBUQUERQUE	007
AL	009	ALBUQUERQUE	009
AL	011	ALBUQUERQUE	011
AL	013	ALBUQUERQUE	013
AL	015	ALBUQUERQUE	015
AL	017	ALBUQUERQUE	017
AL	019	ALBUQUERQUE	019
AL	021	ALBUQUERQUE	021
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AL	025	ALBUQUERQUE	025
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AL	185	ALBUQUERQUE	185
AL	187	ALBUQUERQUE	187

<b>name/title</b>	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
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**organization** Private Consultant

**date** 6 / 27 / 95

street & number P. O. Box 5

**telephone** 4 10-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
410-7660

JOHN H. TULL HOUSE

Crisfield vicinity, Somerset County, Maryland

132/513

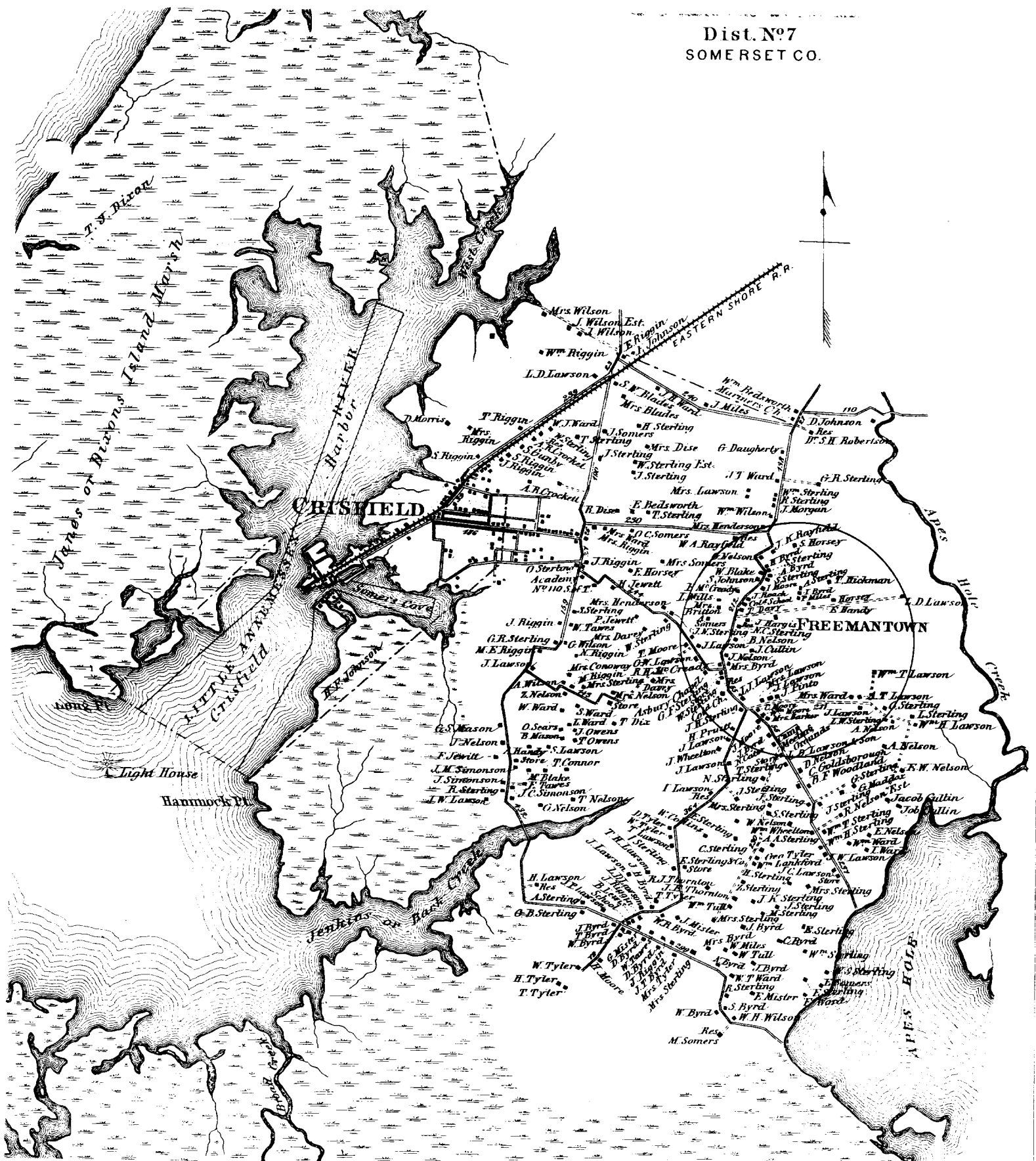
to

Elsie L. Tull  
Sophronia Collins  
Iva Sterling  
Jacob Tull

Frederick E. Gardener  
Phoebe P. Gardener

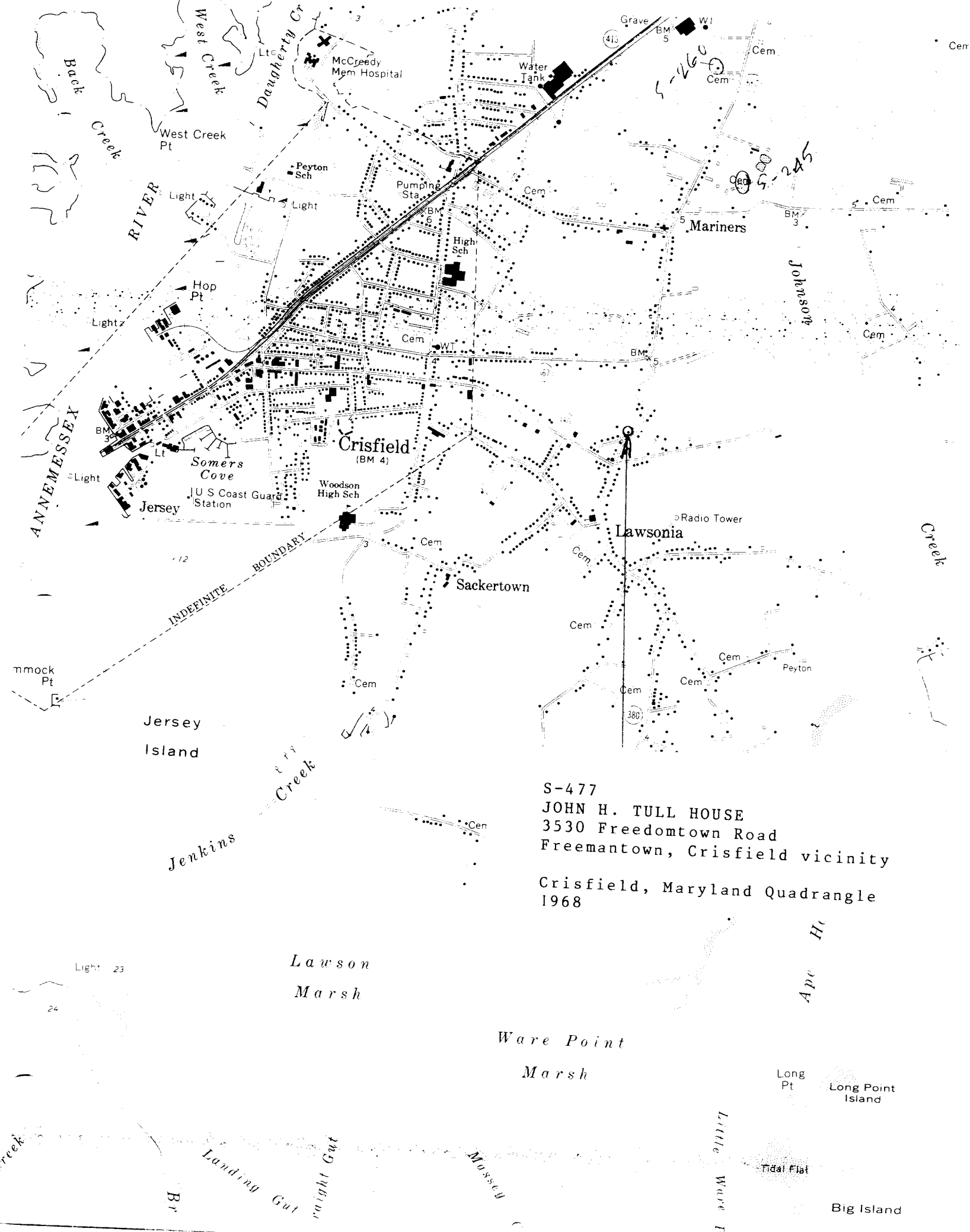
to

John H. Tull  
\$200.00      Lot No. 4



S-477  
JOHN H. TULL HOUSE  
Freemantown, Crisfield vicinity  
Somerset County, Maryland  
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson  
Atlas 1877







S-477

John H. Tuck House

CRICKEN VICINITY, SEVENHILL C. MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

6/95, PAUL TOWNSEND PITTSBURGH

NEE / MD. HISTORIC TRUST

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